

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested after consideration of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Currently, claims 1-11 and 21-34 remain pending in the present application including independent claims 1 and 21. Based upon a previous election made by the Applicant, claims 12-20 are withdrawn from further consideration as being drawn to non-elected inventions.

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over U.S. Patent No. 6,491,980 to Müller, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,989,660 to Moriwaki, et al. As now amended, however, the claims are believed to patentably define over either reference taken alone or in combination.

For instance, claims 1 and 21 are directed to a vehicle air bag that includes a fabric substrate and a residue formed on the fabric substrate. As now amended, both claims require that the residue be formed from an aqueous solution comprising a water-based finish. The water-based finish comprises a halogenated polymer, a polyurethane, an acrylic, a polyvinyl acetate, a flame retardant, or mixtures thereof. Support for this amendment can be found, for instance, on pages 11 and 12 of the present application. As stated at the bottom of page 11, the aqueous solution can contain a halogenated polymer, an acrylic polymer including an acrylic copolymer, a polyurethane, a polyvinyl acetate, a flame retardant based on phosphorous or sulfur chemistry or mixtures thereof. In addition, the aqueous solution can also contain a plasticizer and/or a nonionic surfactant (see new claims 31-34).

In stark contrast, the primary reference relied on in the Office Action, Müller et al., teaches coating an air bag fabric with an aqueous emulsion containing an organopolysiloxane. In fact, the entire essence of Müller et al. is to coat a fabric with an organopolysiloxane mixture. Thus, since Müller et al. fails to disclose to suggest a vehicle air bag including a residue formed from a halogenated polymer, a polyurethane, an acrylic, a polyvinyl acetate, a flame retardant, or mixtures thereof, Applicant submits that the presently pending claims are in complete condition for allowance.

Further, Applicant submits that it would not have been obvious to somehow modify Müller et al. by replacing the aqueous emulsion described in Müller et al. with the aqueous solution as now claimed in claims 1 and 21. For instance, as stated above, the entire essence of Müller et al. is directed to the use of diorganopolysiloxanes which contain SiC-bonded aliphatically unsaturated groups in the terminal units which, according to Müller et al., provide various benefits and advantages over prior art compositions.

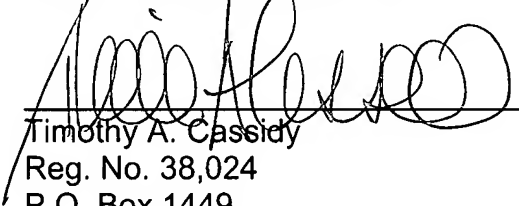
In summary, Applicant submits that the claims as now amended are in complete condition for allowance. Favorable action is therefore respectfully requested. Should any issues remain after consideration of this Amendment, however, then Examiner Singh is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned at her convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

DORITY & MANNING, P.A.

2/16/06

Date



Timothy A. Cassidy
Reg. No. 38,024
P.O. Box 1449
Greenville, SC 29602
(864) 271-1592
(864) 233-7342